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May 10, 1999

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Commissioner Jane E. Henney, MD.
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I strongly agree with the FDA's decision to allow foods such as meats, fruits, and vegetables to be irradiated. In this process, food is dipped into a large pool of water. The pool contains radioactive rods of carbon, which give off ultraviolet rays. These rays remove the bacteria on the surface of the food products. So far, it seems irradiation has saved more lives than it has lost, so it seems to be the only logical consumer food sanitation program there is.

I am simply writing to you as a token of my gratitude for your decision to irradiate food products. In the following paragraphs I will state and explain reasons that lead me to believe you made a wise choice.

The first of my reasons deals with the life-threatening bacteria *E.coli*. This program that you and your administration has approved is the only known process proven to kill off *E.coli*. Many people become infected with this bacteria every year from unchlorinated water, from others who are infected, and from the chief cause, unsanitary poultry. This is an obvious reason why irradiation is a necessity.

My second reason is money. The irradiation process is not only the cleanest, it is the most efficient as well. As you well know, in this modern era, time is money and time will be saved by fully implementing this process.

My third and final point deals with food alteration. *Health and Fitness* magazine says that food which has been irradiated will taste the same. This means that your beef is going to taste just the same as before. This is also a benefit because other sanitation processes can taint the food's taste. I think all my reasons are valid ones. I hope this letter has made you see how much gratitude the public has for you. You should keep this program running through the years to come. Hopefully, someday all foods will be irradiated.

Sincerely,


Ollie Crewdson

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